

Application No.: 10/674,490

Docket No.: 3624-0132P

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 14 and 21 have been amended, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 22 has been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Attached herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement. Notification of receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement, as well as consideration of the documents cited therein by the Examiner, are respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Claims

It is noted that claim 21 has been amended to place it in better form, and has not been amended as a result of a statutory requirement.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has deemed the prior election as being proper and made it final. However, independent claim 1 should now be generic to all embodiments except those wherein the hole of the heel is a blind-hole instead of a through-hole. However, independent claim 13 is generic for other embodiments, and also includes this blind-hole embodiment. Claim 13 would also be readable on an embodiment wherein the hole of the heel is a through-hole. As such, all embodiments should now be claimed. Independent claims 1 and 13 should be in condition for

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allowance and, as such, the election of species requirement should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claims 14-16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In claim 14, there was no basis for the "wrapping layer." This claim has been rewritten, so as to positively recite the wrapping layer. As such, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 8, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ahn et al., U.S. Patent 6,015,354. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 2, 5, 6 and 13 to contain allowable subject matter. Because the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1, this independent claim should be in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 13 has been rewritten as an independent claim. As such, this claim 13 should also be in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully submitted that all claims in the instant application should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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